



IME-01-012

April 7, 2004

To: Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attn: Art Unit 1765 - Duy Vu Nguyen Deo

From: George O. Saile, Reg. No. 19,572

28 Davis Avenue

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., 12603

Subject: | Serial No.: 10/083,990 02/26/02 |

Zhe Wang et al.

APPARATUS AND PROCESS FOR BULK WET
ETCH WITH LEAKAGE PROTECTION

| _ Art Group: 1765 Duy Vu Nguyen Deo |

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

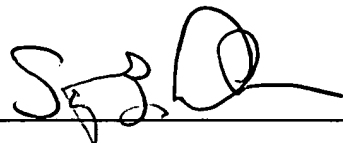
This is in response to the Restriction or Election
Requirement in the Office Action dated 03/24/04. In that
Office Action, restriction was required to one of two stated

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class
mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 12, 2004.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg.# 37761

Signature/Date

 4/12/04

Inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Inventions stated are Group I - Claims 1-15 to an apparatus, classified in Class 156, subclass 345.11 and Group II - Claims 16-26 to a process, classified in Class 438, subclass 689.

Applicant provisionally elects to be examined the Invention described by the Examiner as Group II - Claims 16-26 drawn to a process classified in Class 438, subclass 689. This election is made with traverse of the requirement under 37 C.F.R.1.143 for the reasons given in the following paragraphs.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Requirement for Restriction given in the Office Action. The Examiner gives the reason for the distinctness of the two inventions as (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different products or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP 806.05(f)). However, upon reading the product Claims against the process Claims one can readily see that the product Claims are directed to "an apparatus for wet etching a wafer having front and back surfaces" and the process Claims are directed to "a process for wet etching a wafer having front and back surfaces", it is necessary to obtain claims in both the product and method claim language. The method Claims necessarily use the product and vice versa. The field of search must necessarily cover both the method

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class/subclass 438/689 and products class 156/345.11 in addition to other related Classes and subclasses to provide a complete and adequate search. The fields of search for the Group I and Group II inventions are clearly and necessarily co-extensive. The Examiner's suggestion that "In this case the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process such as cleaning a wafer", is very speculative and really has nothing to do with the Claims as presented in this Patent Application. Further, it is respectfully suggested that these reasons are insufficient to place the additional cost of a second Patent Application upon the Applicants. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this restriction requirement for these reasons.

Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and the Allowance of the present Patent Application is requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. B. Ackerman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen B. Ackerman, Reg. #37761